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PREFACE

The original edition of this bibliography was compiled and distributed to all Manitoba schools in order to make quality Canadian materials known to teachers, librarians and administrators. Since that time the area of publishing for children and young adults in Canada has undergone a period of exciting growth. Although Canadian materials suitable for some subject areas are still limited in quantity, the publication of In Search of Canadian Materials and its Supplements has proven that more and more quality materials are available each year. [PLEASE NOTE: Since 1978, In Search of Canadian Materials has been treated as an annual and thus the practice of issuing supplements discontinued.]

This publication is an aid designed to assist in the selection of materials for schools. Grade levels are indicated by broad categories; particular suitability is indicated; and, where provided, price and ISBN stated for each item. The reviews fall into four categories: highly recommended, recommended, recommended with reservations, and not recommended by reviewer. The inclusion of this last category was provided for users of the bibliography to recognize that, although the title has been considered it has been rejected for particular reasons. In addition, it is important for teacher-librarians to seek out other reviewing media if they wish further critical analysis of a title under consideration. Another source of reviews is **CM : a reviewing journal of Canadian materials for young people** available from the Canadian Library Association in Ottawa. All persons involved in ordering materials for school library or classroom use should have an opportunity to use In Search of Canadian Materials 1990, which is distributed to all schools in Manitoba.

In Search of Canadian Materials, published in 1978, and its 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986 Supplements, In Search of Canadian Materials 1987, 1988 and 1989 were sent previously to Manitoba schools. These publications are also available for loan from the Library, Manitoba Education and Training. Call numbers are as follows:

015.71 M35 - In Search of Canadian Materials, 1978
015.71 M35 s - 1979 Supplement
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015.71 M35 w - 1983 Supplement
015.71 M35 x - 1984 Supplement
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Manitoba Education and Training is indebted to the members of the Manitoba School Library Audio Visual Association (M.S.L.A.V.A) and interested teachers who responded to the request for volunteers to read, evaluate and annotate most of the items in **In Search of Canadian Materials 1990**. Without their dedicated assistance the publication of the bibliography would not have been possible.

Special thanks are due to Samantha Rothwell, who assisted in contacting publishers regarding new Canadian materials and to Joan Fergusson, who typed the manuscript.

Lastly, a word of thanks to the publishers who support this project through the provision of review copies of the books.

Lorrie Andersen
Coordinator, Collection Development
Services
Instructional Resources Branch

KEY

BOOKS

GRADE LEVEL - has been indicated by three broad categories:
Early Years (K-4); Middle Years (5-8); Senior Years (9-12)

The coding does not indicate the reading level of the material, as some books are included at lower levels because they are useful as teachers' reference materials. Most of the strictly Early Years (K-4) materials are included in the "Picture Book" category, but other books suitable for Early Years readers can be found among the titles noted as Early Years.

SUBJECT HEADINGS - those used are the ones which correspond most closely to the subjects taught in school, so that teachers can find materials appropriate to their subject areas. Occasionally materials cover several areas; so the title index is useful if you are unable to locate something by subject headings.

SELECTION GUIDE - the items included represent what are generally considered quality materials by educators. However, some items do contain passages which some segments of the community may find offensive due to the explicitness of the text or to the religious, social or political views expressed. The nature of the community served by the school should be kept in mind when selecting materials.

A rating system includes four categories: Highly Recommended; Recommended; Recommended with Reservations; and Not Recommended by Reviewer. Special caution should be exercised when selecting materials with the latter rating.

The bibliography includes materials which have Canadian content, or are written by Canadians.

PRICES - fluctuate rapidly; and the user should be aware that the stated price may not be the current one. Some prices were not supplied with review copies of the books. For ease in ordering, the ISBN is included for most of the titles.

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ACTIVITY BOOKS

Ingram, Anne Bower. **FAMILY CAR BOOK : QUIZZES, RIDDLES, GAMES AND GIGGLES.** Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 48 pp. $9.95 PB 0-920775-43-8

RAINY DAY BOOK : QUIZZES, RIDDLES, GAMES AND GIGGLES. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 48 pp. $9.95 PB 0-920775-44-6

These attractive, large format books with bright and humourous illustrations by Bob Graham/Shirley Peters are actually intended as collections of "quizzes, riddles, games and giggles" for children who wish to pass the time, either indoors on a rainy day or in the back seat of a car on a motor trip. Though they do contain a couple of mazes to solve which are not appropriate for a library book, they also offer a good variety and high calibre of entertainment. Seasoned with just a dash of interesting information. Originally published in Australia.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

THE PUZZLERS BOOK. Edited by Elizabeth Macleod. [Green world]. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 44 pp. $7.95 PB 0-920775-48-9

Printed on recycled paper and strongly illustrated with black ink drawings, pages offer practical ideas, information, fun, and skill builders having to do with habitat and conservation and divided into seven topics: City, Jungle, Polar region, Ocean, Desert, Forest, and Space. For school use, though, there is a problem: library patrons using the book will have to practise their solutions on a separate piece of paper.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

CANADIAN STUDIES - BIOGRAPHY

Fryer, Mary Beacock. **ELIZABETH POSTHUMA SIMCOE 1762-1850 : A BIOGRAPHY.** Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1989. 176 pp. $16.95 PB 1-55002-064-1; $26.95 HC 1-55002-063-3

Elizabeth Simcoe spent the years 1791 to 1796 in Canada while her husband John Graves Simcoe was the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Her biography is based on her diaries and letters as well as the letters of friends and relatives. While the book offers an interesting picture of Canada in the 1790s and on rural upper-class English life during Mrs. Simcoe's long life (1762 to 1850), it is rather tedious to read. The author includes many details which do nothing to inform us about Mrs. Simcoe as a person or to more clearly describe life in the society in which she lived.

Not recommended by reviewer
SENIOR YEARS

CANADIAN STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY

Mackay, Claire. **THE TORONTO STORY.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 111 pp. $24.95 PB 1-55037-135-5; $34.95 HC 1-55037-137-1

An entertaining, as well as informative, history of the city of Toronto which will appeal to all ages. Seven chapters take the reader "From Trees to Tents to Frontier Town" to " Bulldozers, BMWs, and Bag Ladies." It concludes with an epilogue expressing the authors concerns about the future. Included are Contents, Timelines, Index, and Suggestions for further reading, making it an excellent resource for students of Canadian Studies.

Throughout the book, eight detailed double page drawings by John Wales trace the development of one

particular view of Church and Front Street.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

CANADIAN STUDIES - HISTORY

Driedger, Leo. **MENNONITES IN WINNIPEG.** Winnipeg: Kindred Press, 1990. 95 pp. $5.95 PB 0-919797-96-2

See description under **Manitoba - History**

Fairbairn, Brett. **BUILDING A DREAM : THE CO-OPERATIVE RETAILING SYSTEM IN WESTERN CANADA, 1928-1988.** Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1989. 334 pp. $24.95 corp. ed. 0-88833-286-6.

A scholarly work, **Building a dream** is a thorough examination of the formation and rise of co-operatives in Western Canada. Few, if any, books are devoted entirely to this topic. The well-written text is supported by many black and white photographs, extensive notes, appendices and index.

In telling the story of the rise of co-operatives, readers are introduced to some of the personalities involved, the philosophy which supports their operation, the years in the beginning of suffering and surviving through economic hardship, the growing and diversifying, and finally, the current status of co-operatives today.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

Francis, R. Douglas. **IMAGES OF THE WEST : CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE PRAIRIES, 1690 - 1960.** Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1989. 268 pp. $27.50 HC 0-88833-174-2

This work traces the exploration and settlement of the Canadian West from the fur trading era to contemporary times. Each era portrays a different image of the region. The author identifies the various perceptions through a copious collection of excerpts and examples drawn from authors, poets and artists, as well as the journals, letters and diaries of individuals contemporaneous with the successive eras. The book is well illustrated and includes a section of notes as well as extensive bibliographies of primary and secondary sources. A worthwhile resource for senior high Canadian history.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

Livesey, Robert. **THE VIKINGS.** [Discovering Canada] Toronto: Stoddart Publishing, 1989. 90 pp. $9.95 PB 0-7737-5209-9

The Vikings from the "Discovering Canada" series is a refreshing book in its style of presentation, combining, as it does, facts and theories about the Vikings' discovery of North America with activities of crafts and games a child might enjoy doing. Personalities, gods, voyages, dress, sports, war, and the settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows are all here. Unfortunately for libraries the text suggests that the pages with craft activities might be cut out. Otherwise, a solid presentation with attractive black and white line drawings and an index.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Stanley, George F.G. **TOIL AND TROUBLE : MILITARY EXPEDITIONS TO RED RIVER.** Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1989. 303 pp. $29.95 HC 1-55002-059-5

Covering the period 1685 - 1874, this work details the history of the military presence in Red River. In particular, the remarkable journey of the Wolseley Expedition is a detailed account of an exceptional example of human determination, strength and endurance. It offers valuable insight into the political decisions of the day and the struggle of the Red River

Métis for political and individual rights. From a historical perspective, the work is well researched and documented with numerous footnotes, illustrations, several appendices and an extensive bibliography. Useful for general reading and as a resource for junior and senior high Canadian history courses.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Turner, Wesley. **THE WAR OF 1812 : THE WAR THAT BOTH SIDES WON.** [The illustrated military history of Canada] Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 144 pp. $14.95 PB 1-55002-075-7

As the title of this book points out, both Canada and the United States each believe they won the war. Describing the war from the viewpoints of both countries, the book has been well organized, illustrated and indexed. The author, a university professor of history, is well-qualified to write on this topic, having previously written on the War of 1812 and life in Upper Canada.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

GEOGRAPHY

Galt, George. **A JOURNEY THROUGH THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.** Toronto: Stoddart Publishing, 1988. 220 pp. $7.95 0-7737-5196-3

See description under **Miscellaneous**

Kalman, Bobbie. **TIBET.** [Lands, peoples, and cultures] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 30 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-293-X; $15.16 HC 0-86505-213-1

This excellent photo essay on Tibet provides the impossible: a condensed, but well-rounded middle years level discussion of life in Tibet. Though such an ambitious undertaking for the beginner level is bound to result in a few oversimplifications, the gorgeous photographs and clean, clear layout more than compensate. The text introduces all the issues; the visuals provide a sense of being there. Includes index, glossary, and table of contents.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

HEALTH

Gryski, Camilla. **HANDS ON, THUMBS UP.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 112 pp. $9.95 PB 0-921103-99-9

In this fascinating compendium of information about hands--the importance of the opposing thumb, left-handedness, sign language, finger games--Camilla Gryski provides her reader with hundreds of facts about human hands. Indexed, and with a bibliography, this highly entertaining "handbook" will be of interest to readers of all ages.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

HISTORY - BIOGRAPHY

Fryer, Mary Beacock. **ELIZABETH POSTHUMA SIMCOE 1762-1850 : A BIOGRAPHY.** Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1989. 276 pp. $16.95 PB 1-55--2-064-1; $26.95 HC 1-55002-063-3

See description under **Canadian Studies - Biography**

Mackay, Claire. **THE TORONTO STORY.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 111 pp. $24.95 PB 1-55037-135-5; $34.95 HC 1-55037-137-1

See description under **Canadian Studies - Geography**

HISTORY - POLITICAL

Mackay, Claire. **THE TORONTO STORY.** Toronto: Annick Press, 1990. 111 pp. $24.95 PB 1-55037-135-5; $34.95 HC 1-55037-137-1

See description under **Canadian Studies - Geography.**

Turner, Wesley. **THE WAR OF 1912 : THE WAR THAT BOTH SIDES WON.** [The illustrated military history of Canada] Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 144 pp. $14.95 PB 1-55002-075-7

See description under **Canadian Studies - History**

White, Randall. **VOICE OF REGION : THE LONG JOURNEY TO SENATE REFORM IN CANADA.** Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990. 304 pp. $16.95 PB 1-55002-054-4

This timely, authoritative work provides a historical background to the debate surrounding Senate reform in Canada. The evolution of Canada's political system is traced from colonial times to present day, and the current regional concerns and positions are presented. Alberta's Triple E Senate proposal is evaluated. An appendix includes three proposals for Senate reform. Rounded out with an extensive bibliography, this is a valuable resource for senior high history and current affairs programs.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

HISTORY - SOCIAL

Francis, R. Douglas. **IMAGES OF THE WEST : CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE PRAIRIES, 1690-1960.** Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1989. 268 pp. $27.50 HC 0-88833-274-2

See description under **Canadian Studies - History**

Mackay, Claire. **THE TORONTO STORY.** Toronto: Annick Press, 1990. 111 pp. $24.95 PB 1-55037-135-5; $34.95 HC 1-55037-137-1

See description under **Canadian Studies - Geography**

HOME ECONOMICS - CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Livesley, Jack et al. **MEET THE MEDIA.** Toronto: Globe/Modern Curriculum Press, 1990. 187 pp. $12.95 PB 0-88996-236-7

See description under **Language & Literature - Mass Media/Popular Culture**

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - DRAMA

Reaney, James. **PERFORMANCE POEMS.** Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 104 pp. $12.95 PB 0-920259-32-4

See description under **Language & Literature - Poetry**

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - FICTION

Bedard, Michael. **REDWORK**. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1990. 261 pp. $18.95 HC 0-88619-276-5

Moving into the upstairs apartment of an old rundown house brings teenager Cass Parry into contact with the owner, who is a mysterious old recluse. After discovering old photographs and an image of an ouroboros in his room, intense dreams of the Great War trouble Cass's sleep. Curiosity leads Cass and his friend Maddy to penetrate the mystery surrounding Arthur Magnus. As they befriend the old man, they are initiated into the secret world of alchemy.

This well-crafted coming-of-age story is much like alchemy, a search for true meaning.

Winner of the 1990 Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature-text.

Highly recommended
SENIOR YEARS

Bellingham, Brenda. **THE CURSE OF THE SILVER BOX**. Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 129 pp. $3.95 PB 0-590-73296-X

Thirteen-year-old Katy, visiting with her father and step-mother, discovers an old silver box at an auction. When Katy's step-mother bids on the box and takes it home, a series of events starts to unfold. Katy suffers personal injury before she moves to resolve the mystery and draw the story to its happy conclusion. Written in the first person, the story is fast-paced with believable characters and events.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Blakeslee, Mary. **IDA MAE EVANS EATS ANTS**. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1990 128 pp. $9.95 PB 0-7710-1538-0

Ida Mae gets off to a bad start in her new school, disgracing herself several times on the first day. But when you are "part Paradise" and your Great Aunt Glory says, "Never let them see you sweat", you must accept the challenge. For Ida Mae, that means becoming as different from the rest of the students as she can be.

This is a humourous story, about becoming an adolescent, which touches on friendships, siblings, and school pressures--one which will appeal to students who are experiencing the same emotions.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Brett, Catherine. **S.P. LIKES A.D.**. Toronto: The Women's Press, 1989. 119 pp. $6.95 PB 0-88961-142-4

Fourteen-year-old S.P. (Stephanie Powell) is obsessed with dinosaur bones, and with A.D. (Anne Delaney), a girl in her history class. When Stephanie wins the high school design competition, and the right to create a sculpture for the school grounds, she must confront, simultaneously, her feelings toward Anne, and the Herculean task of erecting a twelve-foot-high concrete dinosaur skull. The novel deals sensitively and realistically with the issue of sexual orientation in adolescent girls.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

CANADIAN CHILDHOODS : A TUNDRA ANTHOLOGY. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1989. 96 pp. $24.95 HC 0-88776-208-5

All of the material in this book was published by Tundra Books between 1967 when the company was founded and 1987, its 20th anniversary. Tundra's art emphasis is evident. With such a kaleidoscope of information about a variety of settings from the

blacks in Halifax to the Chinese on the west coast, and many interesting details of Canadian life such as St. Jean Baptiste day, Kensington Market, Stanley Park, "Fox and Geese", an index would have been helpful. Includes introduction, table of contents and biographical information on all contributors.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Corriveau, Monique. **SEASONS OF THE SEA.** Toronto: Groundwood Books/Douglas and McIntyre, 1989. $14.95 PB 0-88899-086-3

Recently translated into English, this novel is a good example of a classic work, written in French by an established author, which has been made available to the English Canadian reader.

Based on diary accounts of the time, the story takes the reader back in time to a small island settlement in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, just after the turn of the century.

There is a timelessness in the changes facing the characters. The school closes. Families are forced to move, and the lifestyle they valued is threatened.

This is quality Canadian literature that captures a moment of our past, and which needs to be promoted with young readers.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Cumming, Peter. **MOGUL AND ME.** Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1989. 164 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920304-82-6

While an accurate portrayal of pioneer farm life in the Maritimes, the action in this novel centres around the arrival of the circus and its star attraction, the elephant called Mogul.

A young farm lad's way with animals earns him a job when he succeeds in coaxing Mogul aboard the ship transporting the circus to its next destination. Adventure turns to disaster when the ship is wrecked and the crew members abandon their posts.

Shortlisted for the 1990 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Duncan, Sandy Frances. **LISTEN TO ME, GRACE KELLY.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 261 pp. $4.95 P.B. 1-55074-012-1

It is 1955, and twelve-year-old Jessica Crawford is spending the summer at a cottage in Northern Ontario owned by a crusty but kind-hearted friend of the family. Jess's father has recently died, and she and her mother have made the move from Vancouver to Toronto. It is a lonely and confusing time for Jess and so she turns to Grace Kelly, an imaginary friend and alter-ego. Jess's drive to clear up the mystery of her father's last illness and death provides the novel with a startling and moving denouement.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Ellis, Sarah. **NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOURS.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre Limited, 1989. 123 pp. $7.95 PB 0-88899-084-7

This is a wonderfully-told sensitive story of twelve-year-old Peggy Davies's adjustment to moving to a new community. The reader immediately meets her colourful family, including her kind minister-father. In her haste to win over new friends, Peggy lies about owning a horse, and once she is found out, suffers ostracism. Shyness being Peggy's major problem in life, she also suffers loneliness until she befriends Sing, the Chinese gardener who works next door, and George, a Russian immigrant who is not only "weird" but a year younger than Peggy. Set in 1956, this is a pleasant comforting tale of the true meaning of friendship.

Runner up for the City of Vancouver Book Award.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Godfrey, Martyn N. **I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION KIDNAPPED INTO SPACE.** New York: Scholastic Inc., 1990. 133 pp. $3.50 PB 0-590-43418-7

It's been awhile since Martyn Godfrey has taken his readers into space. His first novels **Vandarian incident** and **Alien war games** were heavier in action, however, than this one. In his typically enjoyable style Godfrey spins the fanciful tale of Reeann and Jared who are kidnapped by Torkan aliens and are forced to pretend to be pets for the Princess Vinegold. Their goal is to rescue her from the evil Rothgar the Terrible. One-liners, slapstick and good fun make this a pleasant recreational read. Loyal Godfrey fans won't be disappointed.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Greenwood, Barbara. **SPY IN THE SHADOWS.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 216 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55074-018-0

The year is 1866, and thirteen-year-old Liam is apprenticed to Gottlieb Hahn, a gruff and impatient founder, who makes Liam's life difficult by demanding perfection of him in his work. When Liam, who has emigrated from Ireland to Canada eight years previously, meets his smooth-talking cousin Patrick, a member of the Fenians, he is unable to resist being recruited as a spy. How his entanglement with the Irish rebels endangers Liam's life, and the lives of his friends , makes an exciting and believable piece of historical fiction.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Harris, Dorothy Joan. **SPEEDY SAM.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 64 pp. $3.95 PB 0-590-73214-5

An excellent specimen of the "beginner's novel", this tale, in seven short chapters with humourous drawings is told with finesse. Adam spies a mouse in his home which he'd dearly love for a pet, but Mom has other ideas! A whole exploration of mouse catching techniques ensues, in theory and in practice, while Adam discovers that his teacher isn't hard-hearted after all and can be most helpful in a squeeze. Lots of human interest and forward drive!

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Hughes, Monica. **THE REFUGE.** Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1989. 140 pp. $16.95 HC 0-385-25219-6

A fast-moving, believable story for middle-years readers, this book is the tale of twelve-year-old Barb Coutts's adjustment to her home, a more frugal life-style, and loneliness after her parents' breakup. When Barb discovers a hidden vacant lot, she creates a secret garden which she eventually shares with a new friend. The story culminates in an exciting climax when an escaped convict takes over the "refuge". This novel exemplifies Monica Hughes' diversity as a writer for young people.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Hunter, Bernice Thurman. **THE RAILROADER.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1990. 150 pp. $4.50 PB 0-590-73421-0

Seduced by the magic and power of the steam locomotives which lead the trains passing behind his house, Skip Skinner dedicates his life to becoming a train engineer. The life of a post-war twelve- year-old boy is brilliantly evoked with words and old photographs. Skip struggles with school, home, and friendship with Charlie, the old railway watchman. Although teachers may have to introduce what will be historical fiction for today's pre-teen, the action

filled plot will appeal to the age group.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Korman, Gordon. **LOSING JOE'S PLACE**. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1990. 233 pp. $14.95 HC 0-590-42768-7

Sixteen-year-old Jason and two friends are in Toronto for the summer to stay in his brother Joe's apartment above Plotnick's restaurant while Joe is in Europe. Vintage Korman in style, a series of comic episodes centred on keeping Plotnick, the landlord, happy will keep middle year students laughing. Although the cover depicts boys of the wrong size, readers will find Jason's emerging domesticity and entrepreneurship satisfying and amusing.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS.

Kusugak, Michael. **BASEBALL BATS FOR CHRISTMAS**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. $5.95 PB 1-55037-144-4; $14.95 HC 1-55037-145-2

Set in 1955 in Repulse Bay, Northwest Territories, this vividly illustrated story tells of the arrival of Christmas trees in Rocky Parson's bush plane. The author fondly remembers his boyhood traditions while the reader glimpses portrayals of earlier Inuit life being influenced by civilization. Because no trees grow in Repulse Bay, the children cleverly recycle the Christmas tree trunks into baseball bats. A warm, rich Christmas story with some instructional value as well.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Major, Kevin. **BLOOD RED OCHRE**. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 1989. 147 pp. $15.95 HC 0-385-29794-7

In this compelling novel set in Newfoundland, two coming of age stories set in different eras run parallel throughout its length until drawn together by the author at the climax. Narrated by David who pursues his natural father and the elusive Nancy and by Dauoodaset, a Beothuk who is on a quest for food for his people, **Blood red ochre** is a sympathetic portrayal of a sensitive topic--the extinction of the Beothuk.

Shortlisted for the 1990 Geoffrey Bilson Award.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Matas, Carol. **JESPER**. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Denys, 1989. 152 pp. $10.95 PB 0-88619-109-2

Although written as a sequel to **Lisa, Jesper**, the story of a Danish youth who works for the Resistance, can stand alone as an exciting account of Danish resistance in World War II. Jesper narrates his story from captivity in a Nazi prison as he faces interrogation, torture and death.

Shortlisted for the 1990 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, and the CLA Book of the Year Award.

Highly recommended
SENIOR YEARS

Morgan, Allen. **SAM AND THE TIGERS**. Toronto: Oasis Press, 1990. unp. $6.95 PB 1-895-92-00-0

This is the story of a fearful child. In this case, fear takes the form of tigers who arrive at Sam's fifth birthday party as unexpected quests. Sam must choose between facing his fears or continuing to find ways, however costly, to defer them.

The plot develops in a three-part pattern, followed by a conclusion which breaks the chain. As usual, Morgan succeeds in writing a good story, and Christina Farmilo's bold pencil crayon illustrations work well. The tigers are convincingly cruel, and

Sam's fear is real enough. All-in-all, a good, solid book about a common, but serious, challenge.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Nelson, Jenny. **ARCHIBALD AND THE CRUNCH MACHINE.** [Annick Window on the world books] Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 39 pp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-114-2

The town of Lakeview has a problem: a stink. The town leaders opt to cope by using nose-plugs; but Archibald Blinkle, kid inventor, knows the real solution is to attack the cause, not mask the symptom. With persistence and the help of other children, he cleans up the dump causing the stink. Ultimately, Archibald convinces the town to reduce, re-use and recycle.

Written in a straightforward style, **Archibald** provides a good way to combine reading with environmental studies.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Oppel, Kenneth. **THE LIVE-FOREVER MACHINE.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 223 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55074-010-5

Fourteen-year-old Eric finds himself in the midst of a desperate struggle between two immortal antagonists: Alexander, whose life is dedicated to preserving the past; and Coil, whose mission is to obliterate the past. In 391 A.D. Alexander and his research assistant discovered a way to make themselves immortal; however the live-forever machine generates more evil than good. This fast-paced science fiction thriller should appeal to junior high readers.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Paperny, Myra. **NIGHTMARE MOUNTAIN.** Markham: Overlea House, 1988. 222 pp. $3.95 PB 0-7172-2479-1; $15.95 HC 0-7172-2478-3

The marriage of their parents throws Jordie and Cassandra together for a mountain hiking vacation in the Albertan Rockies. It is a tenuous relationship at best until the discovery of poachers in their midst unites them in a common purpose. Their concern for the wildlife plunges them headlong into danger. In a dramatic ending, Jordie and Cassandra survive a near death episode, the criminals are captured, and the family is brought closer together. Myra Paperny (author of the award-winning **The wooden people**) has written with her well-wrought sense of character, setting, and dramatic tension.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Pasnak, William. **MIMI AND THE GINGER PRINCESS.** Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1988. 117 pp. $5.95 PB 1-55028-105-4; $14.95 HC 1-55028-107-0

A bully tries to capture a stray kitten for his science project. But Mimi, the nine-year-old heroine of the novel, has a way will all cats, and her mind is set on saving the "Ginger Princess". Along the way we meet Mimi's best friend, Paulette, and her dog, Chose, Mimi's younger brother, Kenny, her mother, and Grandfather Takeda. A nicely designed plot, if told a bit ploddingly. Its Japanese background adds interest.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Pearson, Kit. **THE SKY IS FALLING.** Markham: Penguin Books Canada, 1989. 248 pp. $16.95 HC 0-670-82849-1

This book traces ten-year-old Norah and her five-year-old brother Gavin during World War II from their home in war torn Britain to Canada as evacuees. The stress and homesickness faced by the children

and the quiet fears and terror generated in everyone by the war--all these feelings are skilfully captured in Kit Pearson's writing.

The winner of the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, the CLA Book of the Year Award, and the Mr. Christie's Book Award. Shortlisted for the 1989 Governor General's Literary Award.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Poulin, Stéphane. **MY MOTHER'S LOVES.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-148-7; $15.95 HC 1-55037-149-5

Stéphane Poulin has turned his fine talents to the tall tale genre. The few, well-chosen words of the text are all that is needed to enliven his characteristically beautiful canvases with story meaning.

A country family has so little room in its small house that it has to stack its furniture in the yard! After a few amusing incidents (tall tale style) are related, the garbage collectors accidentally cart off the furniture, thinking that it has been put out for the trash. During their confrontation, mother and the garbage collector fall in love. From there it's marriage and a larger family--all in the same small house. An exemplary tale of its genre that is a lot of fun in its own right.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Sutherland, Robert. **THE GHOST OF RAMSHAW CASTLE.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 171 pp. $3.95 PB 0-590-73286-2

When Canadian teenager David McCrimmon agrees to accept a job as a gardener's helper at Ranshaw Castle, he looks forward to renewing his friendship with Sandy McLeod, a young Scottish girl. Readers will remember David and Sandy from the author's two earlier novels **The secret of Black Lake Island** and **The Loon Lake murders**. A "haunted" castle, murder, blackmail, and international intrigue are all ingredients in this fast-paced thriller set in the misty Hebrides. The novel should be enjoyed by middle years mystery fans.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Wieler, Diana. **BAD BOY.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1989. 191 pp. $6.95 PB 0-88899-083-9

This book is a coming of age story surrounding A.J. Brandiosa, a young hockey player, and his best friend Tully. Male friendships, adolescence, and the world of juvenile hockey are vividly and realistically portrayed.

The revelation that Tully is gay shakes A.J. to the core and leads him to question his own nature and agonize over their relationship. The topic is sensitive and may be considered controversial, but the author has not exploited it. Simply one of the best young adult novels around.

The 1990 winner of the Young Adult Canadian Book Award and the Ruth Schwartz Award. The 1989 winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature in English.

Highly recommended
SENIOR YEARS

Wilson, Eric. **CODE RED AT THE SUPERMALL.** [A Tom and Liz Austen mystery] Don Mills: Harper and Collins, 1989. 100 pp. $3.95 PB 0-00-223488-2

The latest in a popular mystery series involving Canadian settings, this Eric Wilson mystery involves Liz and Tom Austen on the trail of a mysterious bomber. Moving through a phantasmagoria of settings at the West Edmonton Mall, a profusion of characters are encountered. Wilson manages to create enough interest in character as well as setting, while holding the thread of the plot tightly enough to make

it a fast, suspenseful read.

A 1989 Notable Canadian Fiction book.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Wood, Daniel. **NO CLOTHES** (Revised) [Window on the world] Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 40 pp $5.95 PB 1-55037-089-8; $8.95 HC 1-55037-112-6

Carlos Freire's simple line drawings ground this short story with casual humour and appeal. The simple, if risque, theme of being caught without clothes is developed into an adventure story complete with dangerous close calls, great escapes and a happy ending. No doubt many children will be drawn to a story based on this very human fear. Daniel Wood carries it off with light-hearted confidence, and a fine continuous tone, both lyrical and conversational.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Yee, Paul. **TALES FROM GOLD MOUNTAIN : STORIES OF THE CHINESE IN THE NEW WORLD.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1989. 64 pp. $16.95 HC 0-88899-098-7

Paul Yee has authored a fascinating collection of stories recounting the early Chinese immigrant experience in Canada. Yee relates the hardships and challenges, successes and failures in a folktale style while covering the spectrum from comic to tragic. Illustrations by Simon Ng powerfully complement the text.

The 1990 winner of the National Chapter IODE Book Award, and shortlisted for the 1990 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction and the CLA Book of the Year Award.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - FOLKTALES & LEGENDS

Hancock, Pat. **MONSTERS.** [Scholastic sticker fun] Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 32 pp. $4.95 PB 0-590-73169-6

A series of descriptions (one per page) of mythical monsters from a variety of traditions. Paul McCusker's coloured stickers, to be placed in appropriate squares, range in style from the comical to the sublime. There is no table of contents, index, or ordered arrangement, but the descriptions are well written and just might entice students to do further research on a favourite monster's story that they find particularly intriguing. Written for students at their level, in their manner of interest.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Stone, Ted. **THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY.** Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1990. 114 pp. $12.95 PB 0-88833-339-0

Jackelopes and hoop snakes are featured in this hilarious collection of tall tales by master storyteller Ted Stone. Anyone who enjoys exaggerated truths will laugh heartily as Salty and Marv spin their yarns. Stone, author of **It's hardly worth talkin' : if you're goin' to tell the truth** and **Hailstorms and hoop snakes**, presents yet another entertaining collection of stories which add Canadian characters and settings to the tall tale genre previously dominated by Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Taylor, C.J. **HOW TWO-FEATHER WAS SAVED FROM LONELINESS.** Montreal: Tundra Books, 1990. unp. $12.95 HC 0-88776-254-9

This is a lovely retelling of "The Origin of Corn", an Abenaki tale that gives the origins of fire, corn, and

communal living. This tale is more than a depiction of the Western Abenaki Indians' farm activity, it is also a view of love and longing and the social nature of being human. Combined with beautiful paintings, magical and haunting, and an explanatory note about folklore sources, this title is a positive addition to the myths and legends section of the library.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - LANGUAGE ARTS (TEACHING)

Ioannou, Susan. **THE CRAFTED POEM : A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO WRITING AND APPRECIATION**. 4th ed. Toronto: Wordwrights Canada, 1990. 74 pp. $6.95 PB 0-920835-02-3

The title of this manual promises "a step-by-step guide to writing and appreciation" but tries to do too much in such a slim volume. Arranged in three chapters: "Warming Up", "Poetic Craft" and "Getting Published" it intersperses examples of various aspects of poetry writing and elements of style with some very interesting works. It is written in a conversational, non-threatening manner and would probably be somewhat useful to the aspiring poet. Appended are a list of recommended resources, further reading, and a glossary.

Recommended with reservations
SENIOR YEARS

Reaney, James. **PERFORMANCE POEMS**. Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 1094 pp. $12.95 PB 0-920259-32-5

See description under **Language & Literature - Poetry**

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - MASS MEDIA/POPULAR CULTURE

Livesley, Jack et al. **MEET THE MEDIA**. Toronto: Globe/Modern Curriculum Press, 1990. 187 pp. $12.95 PB 0-88996-236-7

Attempting to address the whole topic--communication and the mass media--in at least an introductory way, this book does well. Hard facts are kept to a minimum, but loads of possible activities are suggested instead. The emphasis is on learning by investigation, and thereby becoming a skilled media consumer.

The book is well-organized and clearly presents each topic, making good use of photographs and drawings. It is essential for those concerned with media literacy.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - PICTURE BOOKS

Bartels, Alice. **THE BEAST**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 32 pp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-102-9, $14.95 HC 1-55037-101-0

This is the lovely, haunting tale of a young girl who, lost and alone, goes on to meet two special friends--returning finally to safety. Set in the "time of the long night" amidst the Northern Lights, it is about being separate from the world, and about characters who have had similar experiences helping one another. Gilles Tibo's illustrations hold the mood of the mysterious magical atmosphere, mirroring the narrative which is simple, subjective and convincing.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Bogart, Jo Ellen. **DANIEL'S DOG.** Richmond Hill: North Winds Press, 1990. 24 pp. $11.95 HC 0-590-73344-3

Beautifully illustrated, this story revives the American Black tradition of the ghost dog. With a new baby in the family, and feeling left out, Daniel finds comfort in a ghost dog. As he explains to his friend, it is the same ghost dog which his grandfather had whenever he was in need. Daniel adjusts, helping his mother care for the baby. When his friend misses a loved one, Daniel offers him his ghost dog's friend.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Boritzer, Etan. **WHAT IS GOD?** 2nd edition. Willowdale: Firefly Books, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 0-920668-88-7, $14.95 HC 0-920668-89-5

A universal theme of God is used to answer the question. It mentions the religions of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus, and the commonalities in their beliefs. Although it should not be offensive to any religious groups, some may have reservations about reading it in the classroom. The theme is appropriate for all grade levels.

Recommended with reservations
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Bourgeois, Paulette. **GRANDMA'S SECRET.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1989. unp. $12.95 HC 0-921103-57-3

A young boy has a grandmother he loves to visit, where he stays up late, shares tea and cookies, watches the trains, but must never go down into the basement because there's a bear down there. Wonderful full-colour illustrations capture the feeling of grandma's old house.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Bourgeois, Paulette. **TOO MANY CHICKENS.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. unp. $11.95 HC 0-921103-95-6

Bill Slavin's pastel illustrations follow the story's antics with panache. When a farmer leaves some eggs in the care of the class, there is havoc when they hatch out and multiply. The class finally decides to sell the eggs. When the farmer donates rabbits, they make and sell angora hats. And then, when they sell the milk from the nanny goat, they wind up able to afford a house in the country where they will finally have time to learn about seeds!

A tale of humourous chaos and resourceful industry. Lots of interest in details and characterizations.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Cole, Joanna. **A GIFT FROM SAINT FRANCIS : THE FIRST CRECHE.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1989. unp. $14.95 HC 0-921103-59-X

Saint Francis of Assisi wanted to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a special way, and so he staged the first nativity play. The story of how Saint Francis accomplished this is related, accompanied by illustrations so fine that the illustrator was a finalist for the 1990 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Medal.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Creighton, Jill. **ONE DAY THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 24 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-090-1; $12.95 HC 1-55037-091-X

Ruth Ohi (Norman's Snowball) has done wonderful illustrations for Jill Creighton's sweet story about a mother who joins in with her children when they call her for help with one imaginary animal after another. Each time, mother runs from what she is doing in order to engage in their fantasy by devising a way to scare off each invader. The interior of the home is

interesting, original and charming, and mother is... well...indulgent.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Cutting, Michael. **THE LITTLE CROOKED CHRISTMAS TREE**. Richmond Hill: Scholastic Canada, 1990. 19 pp. $12.95 HC 0-590-73652-3

Ron Broda's ingenious collages of cut, sculptured and painted paper make for outstanding illustrations. The text's smooth flowing narrative is featured in cut paper settings. This exceptional Christmas story revives the "ugly duckling" theme with tremendous success.

After having given up its dream of being chosen as a Christmas tree when it gives itself as a home to a lost dove, the misshapen tree then finds itself transplanted and snubbed by neighbouring trees. But, lo and behold, at Christmas time the family decorates and celebrates the tree outdoors where it can survive!

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Fernandes, Kim. **VISITING GRANNY**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 24 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55-37-084-7; $12.95 HC 1-55037-077-4

Jenny and Stevey visit their Granny's where they participate in a variety of activities. Rhythmic language and patterned story become a counting book as first one chick, then two lambs, three goats and, finally, four piglets invade the kitchen intermittently. They are shooed away until five cats (a mother and her kittens) come and are allowed to stay and play. All text is in lovely large print. Illustrations are fascinating--amazing sculptured scenes made from baker's clay. Recipe for Granny's raisin cookies included.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Froissart, Benedicte. **UNCLE HENRY'S DINNER GUESTS**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-140-1; $14.95 HC 1-55037-141-X

Uncle Henry comes to dinner providing his nephews as well as the reader with a feast for the imagination. A refreshing, very original story line with colourful illustrations reminiscent of Picasso. Somewhat distorted body shapes may bewilder very young readers. A great combination of text and illustration, this book stimulates the imagination. It makes you want to go out and buy a shirt with chickens on it!

Also available in French.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Gibson, Betty. **THE STORY OF LITTLE QUACK**. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. unp. $11.95 HC 0-921103-97-2

Kady MacDonald Denton's illustrations have a soft, cartoonish appeal. In bright, watercolour pastels, they provide the perfect complement to Betty Gibson's tale of a lonely farm boy who finds friendship with a pet duck. Both pictures and words paint a picture of farm life with attention to the farm animals and the pervading sense of isolation.

Jackie's new found happiness with his beloved pet is interrupted when, one day, the duck disappears. After giving up hope altogether, Jackie is finally reunited with "Little Quack" whom he finds and takes home... along with her ten new fluffy ducklings.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Gilmore, Rachna. **JANE'S LOUD MOUTH**. Charlottetown: Ragweed Press, 1990. unp. $6.95 PB 0-921556-10-1.

When and rock roll music can be heard around the house, no one imagines that it might be coming from inside Jane. The dentist's diagnosis--"a case of loud

mouth" --leads to further examination which reveals little creatures partying on her teeth. From now on Jane will brush after eating!

Colourful illustrations by Kimberly Hart add to the humourous element in the story.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Harris, Dorothy Joan. **NO DINOSAURS IN THE PARK.** Richmond Hill: North Winds Press, 1990. 24 pp. $11.95 HC 0-590-73210-2

With gently coloured language, grandfather invites granddaughter to join him in a make-believe session, and a walk in the park becomes an imaginative excursion with a variety of dinosaurs. As Sylvie Daigneault's illustrations communicate so well, the pair change their view of real life creatures interacting with the products of their imagination. While the title is drawn from mother's no nonsense reply back home, the story confirms the reality of imaginings which are vivid, shared and enjoyed.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Hutchins, Hazel J. **NICHOLAS AT THE LIBRARY.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-132-0; $14.95 HC 1-55037-134-7

Hazel Hutchins **(Leanna builds a genie trap, Anastasia Morningstar and the crystal butterfly)** has been successful in writing from the child's point of view and in the fantasy mode. Now, Hutchins has written a lengthier story, for the younger set, in which a young boy and a head librarian go on an adventure tour of the children's book department in order to find the home of a chimpanzee who has fallen from his storybook. Illustrator Ohi shows her versatility in this heady experience suitably set on a warm spring night.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Jennings, Sharon. **JEREMIAH AND MRS. MING.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-078-2; $14.95 HC 1-55037-079-0

This book is an imaginative tale of a child distracted from falling asleep and the kind, generous babysitter, Mrs. Ming. By playing along with Jeremiah's pretend games, Mrs. Ming successfully tames each of the sources of distraction until finally Jeremiah falls fast asleep.

Wonderful drawings and simple patterned text makes this a suitable selection for preschool to primary.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Kaye, Marcia. **KAREN KAIN.** [Canadian lives series] Markham: Fitzhenry and Whiteside Ltd., 1990. 48 pp. $9.25 PB 0-88902-857-5

One of the 16 titles from the "Canadian lives" series, this welcome title presents young readers with both the professional and personal life of dancer, Karen Kain. An excellent purchase, as are the other titles which include **Jean Sauvé, David Suzuki, Wayne Gretzky** and **Bryan Adams**...among others.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. **COWBOY DREAMS.** Montreal: Tundra Books, 1990. unp. $17.95 HC 0-88776-245-X.

Cowboy dreams is a book of reminiscences without much point. With its ending fading away in a selection of cowboy tunes, it does not even offer the satisfaction of a complete story. Had the music for the songs been included, it might have served some use as a songbook. The actual result is a weak rallying to the memory of irrelevant imaginings, <u>not</u> the shrine to the land of childhood dreams that was apparently intentioned.

Not recommended by reviewer
EARLY YEARS

Lalonde, Shirley. **A CAT AND MOM STORY.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 27 pp. $4.95 PB 0-590-73130-0

A catchy title for a charming story about Martha's desire for a cat and her mother's many excuses for refusing to have one. The plot is particularly well suited to predicting endings, and its fine writing reveals Shirley Lalonde as a writer with a rare degree of finesse and humour. Kid-tested with Kindergarten and primary assessment, it was well liked. Nicely illustrated by Lindsay Grater (**The red sled**), its borders will provide much interest for solo viewing.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Lamm, C. Drew. **ANNIRANNI AND MOLLYMISHI, THE WILDHAIRED DOLL.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-106-1; $14.95 HC 1-55037-105-3

When a girl loses sight of her doll, which someone has tied to a dog, she ends up chasing the dog across town! The book is, literally, a romp through a quaint Victorian-style village. An interesting sense of period setting is achieved through the delightful artistry of Ruth Ohi, whose name has quickly become a fixture in Canadian children's fiction publishing. Author Lamm's love for language comes through in her whimsical use of vocabulary, expressions and phrases.

Highly recommended for its unique, period setting illustrations.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Lottridge, Celia Barker. **THE NAME OF THE TREE.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre Ltd., 1989. unp. $14.95 HC 0-88899-097-9

In this retelling of a Bantu tale, gazelle and elephant go off to seek the name of a tree from King Lion. Young turtle learns the name, remembers it and returns to the other animals to save them all from the drought as the tree, once named, leans over yielding its many wonderful fruits. A finalist for the 1990 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Medal, Ian Wallace presents illustrations that are soft, dreamlike and evocative.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Lunn, Janet. **DUCK CAKES FOR SALE.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1989. unp. $13.95 HC 0-88899-094-4

An amusing story told like a folktale with delightful illustrations. An old woman wishes to watch a duck from her window and winds up with too many ducks, too many eggs and too many visitors. A must buy.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Martchenko, Michael. **BIRD FEEDER BANQUET.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-146-0; $14.95 HC 1-55037-147-9

Michael Martchenko, whose drawings have been so crucial to the success of a number of titles by Allen Morgan and Robert Munsch, has gone solo. This whimsical tale of a bird population that overindulges on young Jennie's souped-up birdfeeder mixture is cute and humourous. Eventually, the bird population (hilariously anthropomorphic) becomes an issue for city council. And, because the birds are far too heavy to fly, a plane must be chartered to take this disastrously large group south. Little do these pleasure-loving birds know, but they're on a chartered flight to a health spa.

As with those he illustrated for (Morgan and Munsch), Martchenko has written one with a fine sense of the ridiculous and absurd (with just a soupçon of satire)

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Mollel, Tololwa M. **THE ORPHAN BOY**. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1990. unp. $15.95 HC 0-19-540783-0

Paul Morin, the illustrator, was awarded the 1990 Governor General's Literary Award for the best children's book in the illustration category. The story is based on a Maasai legend of the planet Venus. The orphan boy Kileken appears before a lonely old man the same night that a star is missing from the sky. Kileken cheerfully accomplishes a multitude of tasks for the old man, but the secret of how the boy manages to do so much is withheld from the old man. The old man is curious. On the night that the old man breaks his trust to Kileken, Venus reappears in the night sky.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Morgan, Allen. **ANDREW AND THE WILD BIKES**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-082-0; $12.95 HC 1-55037-083-9.

Andrew, at age five, decides he is too old to ride his tricycle, and longs for a bike. Unfortunately, his parents can't afford one. Andrew discovers "wild bikes" living in the nearby woods. He captures one and rides it all night until it's tamed. The next morning he rides it home--to the astonishment of his parents. A delightful piece of fanciful fiction.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Muller, Robin. **THE MAGIC PAINTBRUSH**. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1989. 32 pp. $14.95 HC 0-385-25228-5

Winner of the 1989 Governor General's Literary Award for illustration of English text, **The magic paintbrush** tells the story of Nib, an orphan who is granted a paintbrush that brings what he sees and paints to life. This amazing talent brings him to the attention of the greedy king. In the end, Nib learns to see with his heart, and no longer needs the magic paintbrush. Magic enchantment, and adventure combine in this tale spun from a Chinese folktale.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Munsch, Robert N. **SOMETHING GOOD**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 24 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-100-2; $12.95 HC 1-55037-099-5.

Fun, exaggeration, humourous repetition, and disaster you can delight in make this supermarket tale a very typical Munsch story. After causing much exasperation, Tyya follows her father's command to stand absolutely still so well, that she gets priced as a doll and customers want to buy her.

Finally, a yes/no stand off at the cash register ends with the simple plea of a child, and the title phrase "something good" takes on new meaning.

A classic Munsch/Martchenko romp!

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Paré, Roger. **PLAY TIME**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 24 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-086-3; $12.95 HC 1-55037-087-1.

In Paré's **Summer Days** and **Circus Days**, animal characters are affectionately depicted in humourous situations relating to a central theme. Roger Paré's latest offers more of the same amusing fare so well suited to the pre-school set. This time the theme is "play time" or fun and entertainment. Once again, there are catchy verses and laughable depictions for every activity--portraits in sound and shape and colour that bring these scenes to life for young children.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Patkau, Karen. **IN THE SEA.** [Annick toddler] Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-066-9; $15.95 HC 1-55037-067-7

Poetical language, whimsical tone, combine with fine collages for this sea journey.

A coloured glass fish dangling from a boat, Crystal hears the bright star's song: "Dive and soar with me". Cut loose from her string in a storm, Crystal sees the star falling into the sea as she falls in herself. She feels protected by the ever present starfish when she meets a variety of creatures in the ocean. After being saved from a giant oyster, she loses her friend and then, following a flicker of light to the surface, she beholds the constellations, and "the bright star, the one she loves".

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Patterson, Pat. **HICKORY DICKORY DUCK.** Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 30 pp. $12.95 PB 0-919872-72-7.

Here is a cute spin-off from Mother Goose. For each take-off version of a Mother Goose poem, the first verse of the original is faithfully reproduced. The following verses stray from the original or extend what was originally shorter, leading up to, and describing a particular search activity to be done by surveying the illustration contained on the double page spread. Clues and answers are contained on the final page. Verse adaptations are accomplished; illustrations amusing.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Pragoff, Fiona. **WHAT DO YOU DO WITH AN ORANGE?.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1990. unp. $7.95 PB 0-590-73530-6

Simple, photographic illustration. Great for stimulating productive thinking skills of fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration at the Kindergarten level by looking at the ways to use such common objects as a bowl, box, paper bag, or orange. A good read-aloud and discussion book for toddlers and pre-kindergarten.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Punt, Irene. **THE BOP.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 30 pp. $4.95 PB 0-590-73204-8

This is a tuneful, joyful story of the "absurd plot" variety. The idea of a catchy jingle, repeated over and over again in the same manner as Robert Munsch's **Mortimer**, is given a new twist here. The catchy tune travels from person to person, and before the surprise ending, it will surely have caught on with its audience as well! Tina Holdcroft's illustrations provide just the right bounce and flair.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Richards, Nancy Wilcox. **FARMER JOE GOES TO THE CITY.** Richmond Hill: North Winds Press, 1990. 24 pp. $12.95 PB 0-590-73362-1.

This follow-up to **Farmer Joe's Hot Day** comes from the engaging team of Nancy Wilcox Richards and Werner Zimmerman. Zimmerman (**Henny Penny**) is a very talented illustrator who, if the current trend continues, is quickly becoming very prolific. His mastery of combining the serious with the absurd in colourful, appealing illustrations works well for this simple, humourous pattern tale in which Farmer Joe goes to town (with his animals!) to buy his wife a special present. Large format, print.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Schwartz, Roslyn. **ROSE AND DOROTHY**. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. unp. $11.95 HC 0-921103-03-X

Rose and Dorothy are a mouse and an elephant who live together until Dorothy's clumsiness becomes too much for Rose. At the neighbour's for tea and sympathy, Rose is overheard by Dorothy who is listening at the window. Dorothy runs away and becomes a successful songstress. Meanwhile, Rose, who misses Dorothy, gives her a call; whereupon Dorothy moves into the big house next door. The story concludes "They saw each other often and were friends for life."

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Stevens, Florence. **WHAT IF THE BUS DOESN'T COME?** Montreal: Tundra Books, 1990. unp. $6.95 PB 0-88776-259-X; $12.95 HC 0-88776-251-4

Mark and Melanie collect an array of food, clothing, toys and even their pets to wait for the school bus just in case it doesn't come. An interesting idea for providing discussions with young children on "what if?".

It should be noted, however, that the book is described as "a first reader with easy vocabulary and illustrations that aid comprehension". Unfortunately, the controlled vocabulary makes for a dull read and limits possible uses for the book.

Recommended with reservations
EARLY YEARS

Stinson, Kathy. **THE DRESSED UP BOOK**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 32 pp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-104-5; $12.95 HC 1-55037-103-7

What better follow up could Heather Collins and Kathy Stinson have for **The bare naked book** than **The dressed up book**? Pictures and words work intimately together so that pictures of children playing dress up are referred to in a series of verses made up of descriptive questions about a different body part. All the senses are represented here in this dress up adventure that shows children having lots of fun--until the end when Mom looks in; but, surprise! she joins in.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

Thompson, Richard. **JESSE ON THE NIGHT TRAIN**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-094-4; $12.95 HC 1-55037-093-6.

A train ride becomes an exciting adventure for Jesse when she visits the engineer during the middle of the night. A herd of moose "dances to the music of their horns" and a pack of wolves races along beside the train. Richard Thompson's imaginative story and Eugenie Fernanades's illustrations complement each other beautifully.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Thompson, Richard. **ZOE AND THE MYSTERIOUS X**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 24 pp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-080-4; $14.95 PB 1-55037-081-2.

Bureaucratic bungling is portrayed in the making of a road through a young girl's home. Munsch's **Jonathan cleaned up then he heard a sound** springs to mind as a similar story, except that in this story there is more exploration and analysis of the potentialities of the situation and much less poetic drive. Though the illustrations by Ruth Ohi are colourful and interesting, the story might leave you wondering why it was written.

Not recommended by reviewer
EARLY YEARS

Tibo, Gilles. **SIMON WELCOMES SPRING.** Montreal: Tundra Books, 1990 unp. $10.95 PB 0-88776-247-6

Like other Simon books, this one provides a brief introduction to its topic. Simon simply cannot wait for spring. He asks Owl what he must do to make it come, and although Owl tells him he must wait, Simon tries to hurry along whatever sign of spring Owl mentions. Finally, spring comes of its own accord. Children enjoy the magical blend of fancy and science all tied together with the whimsically pristine collages of Gilles Tibo.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Von Königslöw, Andrea Wayne. **CATCHING PROBLEMS.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $4.95 PB 1-55037-129-0; $14.95 PB 1-55037-131-2.

Everyone's family has problems and Olivia's is no exception. She and her father come up with some imaginative ways to get rid of theirs--like trapping them in the bathroom and throwing them out the window.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Waterton, Bett. **PLAIN NOODLES.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre Ltd., 1989. unp. $12.95 HC 0-88899-095-2

Sophia Figg comes upon a boatload of toddlers who have floated away from their mothers asleep on a neighbouring island. Led up the hill to the lighthouse, Sophia feeds the babies plain noodles, changes diapers, watches them play and puts them to sleep. When their mothers come to claim the children, they promise to picnic at the lighthouse in the future. The delightful illustrations outweigh the storyline.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Wild, Margaret. **THE VERY BEST OF FRIENDS.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. unp. $11.95 PB 0-9211103-77-8.

The pictures capture the readers' attention in this little story of life and death. It is the story of a cat, the pet of the farmer who dies. His wife, struggling to accept her husband's death, ignores his cat; the cat becomes wild. The reconciliation is quite touching. Told in simple language, the story handles deep feelings gracefully. The illustrations complement the text and highlight the swings in the relationship between human and cat.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Wolfe, Pamela. **A COW, A CAKE AND A RED CANOE.** Toronto: The Women's Press, 1989. unp. $4.95 PB 0-88961-140-8.

Tamara and her Grandfather discover that a laundry basket can hold many exciting things including a cow, a cake, a red canoe, and a roller coaster! Whimsical drawings, which alternate from black and white to colour, help create an imaginary setting.

Recommended
EARLY YEARS

Wynne-Jones, Tim. **THE HOUR OF THE FROG.** (A Groundwood book) Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre Ltd., 1989. unp. $12.95 HC 0-88899-096-0

A finalist for the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Medal for illustration, **The hour of the frog** has a slim and amusing storyline about a zany frog and a plucky little girl. The fun loving illustrations by Catharine O'Neill are wonderful.

Highly recommended
EARLY YEARS

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - POETRY

Gorman, LeRoy. **DANDELIONS AND DREAMS.** Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 75 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920259-26-X.

This is a whimsical collection of children's poetry in a wide variety of forms including concrete, haiku and experimental. The poet explores freely, and illustrates the joys of this freedom of expression through language. The fine line drawings complement the humour of the light enjoyable writing.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Ioannou, Susan. **THE CRAFTED POEM : A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO WRITING AND APPRECIATION.** (4th ed.) Toronto: Wordwrights Canada, 1990. 74 pp. $6.95 PB 0-920835-02-3.

See description under **Language & Literature - Language Art (Teaching)**

Lane, Patrick. **MILFORD AND ME.** Regina: Couteau Books, 1989. unp. $7.95 PB 0-919926-97-5; $13.95 PB 0-919926-96-7

In this long poem, aimed at the primary child, a boy's questions about the world, names, monsters and God are answered by a turtle named Milford. A boring, repetitive rhythm and many awkward rhythms combine with fuzzy, dull illustrations. The overall lack of coherence will bewilder and bore the intended audience, and embarrass the most didactic of adult readers.

Not recommended by reviewer
EARLY YEARS

Patterson, Pat. **HICKORY DICKORY DUCK.** Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 30 pp. $12.95 PB 0-919872-72-7.

See description under **Language & Literature - Picture Books**

Reaney, James. **PERFORMANCE POEMS.** Goderich: Moonstone Press, 1990. 104 pp. $12.95 PB 0-929259-32-4

The author's preface to this guide of connected poems suggests an exciting range of performance possibilities for which the poetry itself--riddled with dated insider Canlit references, sexual innuendo, obscure mythological allusions, and southwestern Ontario provincialism--is simply unsuitable for all but the most mature and knowledgeable students/audiences. An imaginative instructor could, however, take the many excellent performance suggestions and apply them to superior materials from other poets. Performance royalties negotiable with author's agent.

Not recommended by reviewer
SENIOR YEARS

Scriver, Stephen. **MORE! ALL STAR POET : NEW AND SELECTED POEMS.** (Revised edition) Regina: Coteau Books, 1989. 139 pp. $5.95 PB 1-55050-001-5

This second edition adds illustrations and new titles to a highly successful collection. These are poems about those who have spent a big part of their lives playing hockey, and (sometimes) fanatically cheering for the pros.

Scriver's is a direct, colloquial style, using the language of real hockey players and coaches who tell the reader about the pleasures, disappointments, philosophies, and agonies of the amateur hockey culture. Often humourous, and certainly ironic, these can be great starters for readers who won't "warm up" to poetry.

Highly recommended
SENIOR YEARS

Swede, George. **HOLES IN MY CAGE**. Stratford: Three Trees Press, 1989. 48 pp. $5.95 PB 0-88823-147-4; $12.95 HC 0-88823-148-2

This is Swede's first collection for young adults and, like his works for children, it is full of innovative, unusual poetry. All are brief, many are haiku or resemble haiku. They are delicious, thought-provoking and a pleasure to share or read alone. This would be especially useful for the reluctant poetry student because of the brevity, simplicity and humour in these poems.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

TIL ALL THE STARS HAVE FALLEN : CANADIAN POEMS FOR CHILDREN. Selected by David Booth and illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1989. 93 pp. $16.95 HC 0-921103-90-5

Simply a delightful book! The poems--traditional, contemporary, humourous, thoughtful--have been selected with great care and illustrated with graceful, imaginative illustrations in a variety of media. A must buy.

Winner of the 1990 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Medal.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

VOICES ON THE WIND. Selected by David Booth. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 41 pp. $14.95 PB 0-921103-79-4

Beautiful, bucolic and beatific, this anthology merits a place on your library's shelf! Poetry selections gathered by children's dramatist David Booth--each a classic in its own right--centre on encounters with, and celebrations of, nature. The large format does justice to these gems, and to the illustrations which surround them in a flowing, picturesque layout. Michele Lemieux's art absolutely shines as interpretive illustration for poetry, combining continuity and variety, enchantment and concreteness.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Ward, Ken. **MRS. KITCHEN'S CATS**. Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $8.95 PB 1-55037-107-X.

A collection of light-hearted nonsense poetry about everything from bookworms to Alexander Graham Bell. Some of the work is refreshing. Some is less imaginative. Illustrations do little to complement the text.

Recommended with reservations
EARLY YEARS

MANITOBA - HISTORY

Driedger, Leo. **MENNONITES IN WINNIPEG**. Winnipeg: Kindred Press, 1990. 95 pp. $5.95 PB 0-919797-96-2

This book, published primarily for the delegates to the Mennonite World Conference in Winnipeg in 1990, is not really suitable for general school use. There are a number of books about Mennonites, written especially for students, which would be a better choice for use in the junior high school multiculturalism unit. One example is **A Mennonite odyssey** by Rhinehart Friesen (reviewed in the 1988 edition of **In Search of Canadian Materials**).

The author of **Mennonites in Winnipeg** leaves readers with a rather inaccurate view of Manitoba history in several instances. For example, on page 14 he states that while the Selkirk settlers arrived in 1812, "the Selkirk settlement did not survive". Since he offers no further information on the Selkirk settlers, the impression is left that they were of negligible importance in Manitoba.

He goes on to say that the Mennonites who arrived in

1874 "were among the first permanent agricultural settlers". Again, this may be true but, because no mention is made of other settlers, it tends to give the impression that Mennonites played a much larger role in Manitoba settlement than they in fact did.

Not recommended by reviewer
Adult

Stanley, George F.G. **TOIL AND TROUBLE : MILITARY EXPEDITIONS TO RED RIVER.** Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1989. 303 pp. $29.95 HC 1-55002-059-5

See description under Canadian Studies - History

MISCELLANEOUS

Galt, George. **A JOURNEY THROUGH THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.** Toronto: Stoddart Publishing, 1988. 220 pp. $7.95 PB 0-7737-5196-3

George Galt details his travels through the Aegean Islands from Samos, Paros, Rhodes, Crete and Mykonos. He describes the landscape, the people, and the sites, but also manages to put all of these things into perspective by reminiscing about the past and wondering about the future. The reader understands not only the wonderful sites, but also has a feeling for the aggravations of the weary traveller, as George Galt freely divulges his grievances.

Recommended
SENIOR YEARS

MISCELLANEOUS - RELIGION

Boritzer, Etan. **WHAT IS GOD?** Willowdale: Firefly Books, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 0-920668-88-7; $14.95 HC 0-920668-89-5

See description under Language & Literature - Picture Books

Pilling, Ann. **BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 93 pp. $19.95 HC 0-921103-45-X

With gleanings from the Old Testament and the New as well as other poetry, Ann Pilling's fulsome collection has much to offer.

Kady MacDonald Denton's glistening watercolours gracefully decorating and illustrating these poems, prayers, and bible stories, provide the comfort of visual imagery. The clear, large print sits comfortably in this pictorial setting. The stories and meanings have been made apparent by means of the artists well-chosen moments.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

MULTICULTURALISM

Bogart, Jo Ellen. **DANIEL'S DOG.** Richmond Hill: North Winds Press, 1990 24 pp. $11.95 PB 0-590-73344-3

See description under Language & Literature - Picture Books

Driedger, Leo. **MENNONITES IN WINNIPEG.** Winnipeg: Kindred Press, 1990. 95 pp. $5.95 PB 0-919797-96-2

See description under Manitoba - History

Whiteway, Doug. **WHAT'S COOKING IN ETHNIC WINNIPEG.** Winnipeg: Turnstone Press, 1987. 127 pp. $5.95 HC 0-88801-120-2

Local author and columnist, Doug Whiteway, describes eight of Winnipeg's major ethnic groups in terms of restaurants, foods, cultural activities, specialty shops, and grocery stores: Chinese, Greek, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Portuguese and Ukrainian. This truly excellent guide provides invaluable multicultural information systematically, and is as well written as it is researched. Information is detailed, practical, accurate. A wealth of knowledge which will outlast the odd closing or opening of a restaurant.

Highly recommended
SENIOR YEARS

NATIVE STUDIES

Shemie, Bonnie. **HOUSES OF BARK : TIPI, WIGWAM AND LONGHOUSE.** [Native dwellings : woodland Indians] Montreal: Tundra Books, 1990. 24 pp. $12.95 HC 0-88776-246-8

In this second title of an excellent series, bark dwellings as well as a wide variety of items made from bark are presented. Cultural context and architectural construction for dwellings are well explained. Excellent in both research and presentation, this title integrates illustrations with a superbly adapted text that is thorough in background information without elevating its language beyond that of its readers. Fly leaves feature maps showing where these houses were found in North America.

Highly recommended
EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

NATIVE STUDIES- FICTION

Kusugak, Michael. **BASEBALL BATS FOR CHRISTMAS.** Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. unp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-144-4; $14.95 HC 1-55037-145-2

See description under **Language & Literature - Fiction.**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Barrow, Robin. **UNDERSTANDING SKILLS.** London: The Althouse Press, 1990. 200 pp. $18.95 PB 0-920354-26-2

Rigorous writing, thoughtful contemplation of educational issues, and tough thinking on many topics, combined with an intent to centre the basis from which teachers teach, make this a worthwhile and edifying read. Many educational concepts are summarized and simplified--most are considered from a variety of angles. Barrow brushes aside the confusion of methodologies to assert the importance of initiation into the different disciplines. Presents a refreshing challenge to education ideals.

Highly recommended
Teacher reference

Carreiro, Richard. **WORKING WITH FAMILIES.** [Options : guidance in grades 1-8] Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1989. 51 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920541-49-6

Freeze, Richard. **ACHIEVING.** [Options : guidance in grades 1-8] Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1989. 102 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920541-55-0

Preyman, Nadia et al. **MANAGEMENT TOOLS.** [Options : guidance in grades 1-8] Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1989. 129 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920541-59-3

Russell, Anita M. **SELF-ESTEEM.** [Options : guidance in grades 1-8] Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1989. 79 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920541-51-8

Russell, Anita M. **SUICIDE.** [Options : guidance in grades 1-8] Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1989. 102 pp. $8.95 PB 0-920541-6-8

These five titles of the ten making up the **Options: guidance for grades 1-8** series are aimed at the elementary and middle years guidance counsellor and/or teacher. Clearly and authoritatively written, these books contain vivid examples and concrete ideas for working with children. Excellent bibliographies and tables of content make these books both useful and practical. An added bonus is the books' up-to-date, Canadian focus. (See **In Search of Canadian Materials 1989** for reviews of the first five titles of the series).

Highly recommended
Teacher reference

Watson, Dorothy J. **WHOLE LANGUAGE : INQUIRING VOICES.** Richmond Hill: Scholastic-TAB Publications, 1989. 72 pp. $9.95 PB 0-590-73371-0

A valuable resource that will pull together a lot of concepts that are new to those less familiar with whole language ideology. Likely to offer some area of inspiration to anyone who takes the three or so sittings necessary to finish the title. Not a difficult title to read--smooth, flowing and conversational, though perhaps a touch platitudinous. Examined are theory, style, method and aspirations of the whole language school of thought, plus many examples of the types of activities and progression that proceed from this line of thinking.

Highly recommended
Teacher reference

SCIENCE

Bourgeois, Paulette. **THE AMAZING DIRT BOOK.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 80 pp. $9.95 PB 0-921103-89-1

Dirt you clean, dirt as a mixture of elements, dirt for gardening, dirt that anthropologists dig up, that homes are made of and, finally, dirt as continental masses. Each chapter is a web of related topics liberally sprinkled with interesting activities, tidbits of information, as well as humourous, illustrative drawings by Craig Terlson. If a touch superficial in places, this type of hors d'oeuvres style treatment will initiate students into a sense of know-something-about and even wanting-to-know-more in certain disciplines. The index is invaluable to those who would unearth any of the wealth of details in this volume.

Highly recommended
EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Penrose, Gordon. **DR. ZED'S SENSATIONAL SCIENCE ACTIVITIES.** Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 48 pp. $9.95 PB 0-920775-53-5

Tina Holdcroft's illustrations provide the excellent graphics and amusing cartoon characters whose speech balloons complete the messages of over 20 science activities. The format is personable and user friendly while nothing is left out--materials, process, method, conclusion, and basic rules. There is a great range of catchy projects from making kazoos and magnetic hills to physics and animal science experiments, all using everyday materials.

Shortlisted for the 1990 Information Book Award.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

Suzuki, Laura. **DAVID SUZUKI ASKS DID YOU KNOW...ABOUT LIGHT AND SIGHT?** Toronto: General Paperbacks, 1990. unp. $4.95 PB 0-7736-7245-1

Though his name is in the title, David Suzuki's role in this production is that of editor. As well, one of the co-authors is his daughter. Each page contains one short, bite-sized question and answer. Questions are characteristically interesting or everyday type information while answers are concise, avoiding both the overly superficial and the overly thorough. Varied black and white cartoon style illustrations add drama and interest to the presentation.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? ANSWERS TO : KIDS' QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURE, SCIENCE AND THE WORLD AROUND THEM. Compiled and edited by Katherine Farris. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 76 pp. $12.95 PB 0-920775-52-7

At first glance, this title appears to be yet another question and answer browser. But, closer examination reveals that, unlike some others of that genre, the level is quite basic and consistent; similar topics are grouped; and, most importantly, there is a fairly comprehensive index to provide access to the information. This title comes to us from the editors of Owl Magazine and, as is true of their regular product, the text is very readable. A very attractive title in both layout and content.

Recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

SCIENCE - BIOLOGY

Forsyth, Adrian. **THE ARCHITECTURE OF ANIMALS : THE EQUINOX GUIDE TO WILDLIFE STRUCTURES.** Camden East: Camden House Publishing, 1989. 72 pp. $9.95 PB 0-920656-08-0

A finalist for the 1990 Information Book Award, it combines text with one or more photographs per page. Mollusks, Insects and Spiders, Bony Fish and Reptiles, Birds and, finally, Mammals are the titles for the chapter headings in which the structures that animals build to protect themselves and their young are depicted. A must buy.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

SCIENCE - ECOLOGY

Godkin, Celia. **WOLF ISLAND.** Markham: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1989. unp. $18.95 HC 0-88902-753-6

Winner of the 1990 Information Book Award, **Wolf Island** is based on a true event. Written with ease and style, the story relates the chain oof events which effected the ecosystem when a family of wolves left theier island habitat. At first, deer multipled--reducing the food for the rabbits and, in turn, for the foxes. The deer ate the grass that mice normally ate and, with fewer mice, the owls went hungry. The story goes full cycle. A must buy!

Highly recommended
EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

THE PUZZLERS BOOK. [Green world] Edited by Elizabeth MacLeod. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 44 pp. $7.95 PB 0-920775-48-9

See description under **Activity Books**

SCIENCE - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Nelson, Jenny. **ARCHIBALD AND THE CRUNCH MACHINE.** [Annick Window on the world books] Willowdale: Annick Press, 1990. 39 pp. $5.95 PB 1-55037-114-2

See description under **Language & Literature - Fiction**

SCIENCE - NATURE STUDY

Forsyth, Adrian, **EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BIRDS : AN EQUINOX GUIDE TO AVIAN LIFE.** Camden East: Camden House Publishing, 1990. 72 pp. $9.95 PB 0-920656-94-3; $15.95 HC 0-920656-98-6

In articulate language which is as adept as their fieldwork, Forsyth and Aziz offer an appreciation of the life cycle of birds in its various adaptations. By bringing to life a large picture of life on the wing, the fact becomes plain that what the average person, and even birder, sees is just a glimpse. Photographs are excellent, useful for younger students. "Morphology", "Behaviour" and "Ecology" sections are thoroughly subdivided and covered. Includes detailed species index and bibliography.

Recommended
MIDDLE YEARS

THE KIDS' CAT BOOK. (Revised edition) From the Editors of OWL Magazine. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 96 pp. $12.95 PB 0-920775-51-9

THE KIDS' DOG BOOK. (Revised edition) From the Editor of OWL Magazine. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1990. 96 pp. $12.95 PB 0-920775-50-0

It was a clever move to reprint these excellent cat/dog compendiums. Originally published in 1984, they have been popular library items ever since, and the opportunity to replenish the shelves with a new supply can only be welcomed with open arms. Large format, and variety in presentation are keys to reader satisfaction here. Colour photos, anecdotes, pet care how to's, jokes, famous cats, physiological facts, a "Night Mites" cartoon, and more, provide plentiful fare for pet lovers.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Taylor, J. David. **ALLIGATOR AND THE EVERGLADES.** [Animals and their ecosystems] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-397-9; $15.16 HC 0-86505-367-7.

THE BISON AND THE GREAT PLAINS. [Animals and their ecosystems] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-396-0; $15.16 HC 0-86505-366-9

ELEPHANT AND THE SCRUB FOREST. [Animals and their ecosystems] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-395-2; $15.16 HC 0-86505-365-0

LION AND THE SAVANNAH. [Animals and their ecosystems] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-394-4; $15.16 HC 0-86505-364-2.

These attractive books have been produced with a very high standard for quality in photographs, writing, and overall production. In addition, their material is well thought out and conceived, excellently researched, and masterfully presented with a satisfying thoroughness that makes them suitable for older audiences. It is the aim of this series to relay a sense of the animal considered, in all its aspects, as well as a picture of the world in which it lives and depends on, including the habitat's vegetation and other inhabitants whether prey, enemies or co-habitants. A very sensitive consideration is given to the questions of habitat

(Grade III), interdependency (Grade IV) and adaptation (Grade V), as well as a thoughtful look at the problems of loss of habitat and other circumstances posing a threat to these populations. As well, Mr. Taylor is careful to point out that it is not our role to judge the behaviour of animals, but only to observe and take note.

A special note must be made to underline the quality of the photographs which have variety in their depth of field, full colour saturation, and provide an excellent visual reference, making these titles a suitable reference for any age. Index, glossary, and table of contents.

Highly recommended
EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Waldon, Bob. **A PRAIRIE GUIDE TO FEEDING WINTER BIRDS**. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1990. 167 pp. $15.95 PB 0-88833-310-2

This title is outstanding for its specific, detailed and practical information. Opening chapters consider feeding, types of feed and seeds, and the downside of this pleasurable hobby. Birds are considered next--first as a group, and then as individual species. Ground visitors are also discussed. Appendices provide information on specific habitats, and birdfeeder designs. Includes bibliography and index. The answer to birdfeeders' requests--no library should be without it.

Highly recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Wyatt, Valerie. **WEATHER WATCH**. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 96 pp. $9.95 PB 0-921103-63-8.

The weather holds an endless fascination, and if you had any doubt of that, you'd better get your hands on **Weatherwatch**! Valerie Wyatt and Pat Cupples have teamed up to provide text and illustration for activities with which children can explore the weather as well as a great deal of detailed and sophisticated explanations (clearly explicated!) that shade in the features of all manner of weather phenomena. Includes index. (Note: a few of the experiments require the guidance of an adult.)

Highly recommended
EARLY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

SOCIAL STUDIES

Horne, Constance. **NYKOLA AND GRANNY**. Agincourt: Gage Educational Publishing, 1989. 169 pp. $5.30 PB 0-7715-7019-8

Because of illness, young Nykola is left behind when his family emigrates to Canada. Nykola's desire to join his family seems destined to be thwarted until his aged and determined grandmother takes matters into her own hands.

The description of the hardship and adventure of their journey relates the common Ukrainian immigrant experience at the turn of the century. This novel ties n well with Grade 3 and Grade 6 social studies programs.

Shortlisted for the 1990 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction.

Highly recommended
EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS

Livesey, Robert. **THE VIKINGS**. [Discovering Canada] Toronto: Stoddart Publishing, 1989. 90 pp. $9.95 PB 0-7737-5209-9

See description under **Canadian Studies - History**

Livesley, Jack et al. **MEET THE MEDIA.** Toronto: Globe/Modern Curriculum Press, 1990. 187 pp. $12.95 PB 0-88996-236-7

See description under **Language & Literature - Mass Media/Popular Culture**

Shemie, Bonnie. **HOUSES OF BARK : TIPI, WIGWAM AND LONGHOUSE.** [Native dwellings : woodland Indians] Montreal: Tundra Books, 1990. 24 pp. $12.95 HC 0-88776-246-8

See description under **Native Studies**

SOCIAL STUDIES - CONTEMPORARY

Granfield, Linda. **CANADA VOTES : HOW WE ELECT OUR GOVERNMENT.** Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1990. 64 pp. $9.95 PB 0-921103-88-3

The author has produced an inexpensive book that will fill a need in libraries since there is so little information available about elections and the political process in Canada at a level suitable for younger readers. Each topic, 2 to 3 pages in length, introduces and explains briefly the aspects of the election process. The line illustrations are humourous and support the text. Additionally, there is a glossary of electoral terms, and a brief index.

Recommended
MIDDLE AND SENIOR YEARS

Kalman, Bobbie. **INDIA, THE CULTURE.** [Lands, peoples, and cultures] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-292-1; $15.16 HC 0-86505-212-3

INDIA, THE LAND. [Lands, peoples, and cultures] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-290-5; $15.16 HC 0-86505-210-7

INDIA, THE PEOPLE. [Lands, peoples, and cultures] Mississauga: Crabtree Publishing, 1990. 32 pp. $8.96 PB 0-86505-291-3; $15.16 HC 0-86505-211-5

Bobbie Kalman has achieved an enviable reputation as editor of several excellent series designed to support the social studies curriculum across the grades.

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